



**CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**

February 14, 2013

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I regret that I am unable to personally appear before you today to provide this testimony about the Governor's budget proposals for higher education.

My name is Vijay Nair and I am president of the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors, which represents over 3,000 full-time and part-time faculty, librarians, coaches, and counselors at CSU. Our organization has been lobbying for funding for additional full-time faculty for over ten years. Adequate levels of full-time faculty are crucial to the functioning of the university. While CSU employs part-time faculty who are excellent teachers, part-time faculty are hired only to teach courses. Full-time faculty teach courses, advise and mentor students, perform research, develop curriculum, perform community and university service, develop new courses, assess university programs for accreditation, and participate in university governance. Not having adequate numbers of full-time faculty affects student retention, graduation rates, and workforce development.

Since 2003, the number of full-time faculty positions has remained relatively stable while the number of part-time faculty has grown dramatically (from approximately 1250 part-time faculty in 2003 to nearly 1900 in 2012). The merger of the Boards of Trustees for the Connecticut State Universities and the Community Colleges was proposed as a way to save money and fund the hiring of full-time faculty. This has not occurred. The Board of Regents had identified \$5.5 million in savings last summer and pledged to hire at least 47 new faculty across all 17 ConnSCU institutions. However, the Governor's rescissions in late November caused the BOR to institute a freeze on all hiring at the universities and colleges.

CSU-AAUP is grateful that during these difficult fiscal times, the Governor has proposed an increase for Connecticut State University. However, this modest increase will not allow the universities to hire the full-time faculty we need. Like the University of Connecticut, CSU needs a significant investment from the state to hire full-time faculty. The Connecticut State Universities also provide bachelor's and master's degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and would welcome an investment in faculty so that our universities can also contribute to the Governor's goal of responding to the needs of business and industry in the state by increasing the number of STEM graduates in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Vijay Nair
President, CSU-AAUP